



Illustration by John H. Rumely,
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VIGUIERA MULTIFLORA **MANY FLOWERED VIGUIERA**

Showy Goldeneye is a perennial from a short taproot or fibrous rootstock with several stems standing 20-130 cm tall. All but the uppermost leaves are opposite on the stem. Leaves are 3-10 cm long and 8-30 mm wide, short stalked or stalkless, narrowly oval in shape, and with pointed tips and surfaces with short, stiff hairs. Flower heads are borne at the ends of the branches. The involucre is 5-10 mm high, and composed of 2-3 series of narrow green bracts. Each head has 8-16 showy yellow rays that are 1-2 cm long by 3-5 mm wide, surrounding a disk, 6-15 mm across, composed of yellow tubular flowers. The black, hairless achenes are thick and angular in cross-section, lack bristles and scales at their tops, and are clasped by chaffy bracts as in a sunflower head. Flowering in late July through August.

VIGUIERA MULTIFLORA belongs to the sunflower group, which are distinguished from other composites by having yellow rays, opposite leaves, and heads with chaffy bracts surrounding the achenes. It is distinguished within this group by the 4-sided achene and lack of a pappus. A hand lens and technical key are needed for positive identification.